

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible and extensible closure apparatus for use in apparel, comprising:

a first portion having inner elements and outer elements, the outer elements connected together to form a first continuous strip, the outer elements attached to a first section of material, each of the inner elements connected to at least one of the outer elements; and

a second portion having inner elements and outer elements, the outer elements of the second portion connected together to form a second continuous strip, the outer elements attached to a second section of material, each of the inner elements connected to at least one of the outer elements of the second portion, the inner and outer elements of the second portion longitudinally opposed to the inner and outer elements of the first portion, the inner and outer elements of the first portion interconnected with the inner and outer elements of the second portion to form an interlocked strip to ~~join~~ connect the first section of material to the second section of material wherein the hollow inner elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer elements of the first and second portions comprise hollow diamond shaped elements.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 31, wherein the hollow inner diamond shaped elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer diamond shaped elements of the first and second portions comprise different sized hollow diamond shaped elements.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 51, wherein the hollow inner elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer elements

of the first and second portions comprise hollow ovoid shaped elements and, wherein the hollow inner ovoid shaped elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer ovoid shaped elements of the first and second portions comprise different sized hollow ovoid shaped elements.

7. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first section of material and the second section of material comprise a stretchable fabric type material.

8. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparel is selected from the group consisting of shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, and bags.

9. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interlocked strip is separable into the inner and outer elements of the first portion and the second portion in order to partition the first section of material from the second section of material.

10. (Currently Amended) A flexible and extensible closure apparatus for use in apparel, the flexible and extensible closure apparatus comprising:

- a first size element;

- a second size element;

- a first portion including:

- a first row of connected first size elements, the connected first size elements forming a first continuous strip, the first continuous strip attached to a first section of material; and

- a second row of second size elements, each of the second size elements connected to one of the first size elements;

- a second portion including:

- a third row of connected first sized elements, the connected first size elements of the second portion forming a second continuous strip, the second continuous strip attached to a second section of material; and

- a fourth row of second size elements, each of the second size elements of the second portion connected to one of the first size elements wherein the first size elements of each of the first portion and the second portion and the second size elements of each of

the first portion and the second portion comprise first size hollow diamond shaped elements and second size hollow diamond shaped elements; and

wherein the fourth row of second size elements is interlayed with the first row of first size elements and the second row of second size elements to form a flush interlocked strip to ~~connect~~ join the first section of material to the second section of material.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first section of material and the second section of material comprise a stretchable fabric type material.

14. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 10, wherein the apparel is selected from the group consisting of shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, and bags.

15. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 10, wherein the fourth row of second sized elements is separated from the first row of first size elements and the second row of second size elements, the first section of material being separated from the second section of material.

16. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second row of second size elements is interlayed with the third row of first size elements and the fourth row of second size elements to form a flush interlocked strip to connect the first section of material to the second section of material.

17. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 16, wherein the second row of second sized elements is separated from the third row of first size elements and the fourth row of second size elements, the first section of material being separated from the second section of material.

18. (Currently Amended) A flexible and extensible closure apparatus for use in apparel, comprising:

a first portion having inner hollow elements and outer hollow elements, the outer elements connected together to form a first continuous strip, the outer elements attached to a first section of material, each of the inner elements connected to at least one of the outer elements of the second portion; and

a second portion having inner hollow elements and outer hollow elements, the outer elements of the second portion connected together to form a second continuous strip, the outer elements attached to a second section of material, each of the inner elements of the second portion connected to at least one of the outer elements of the second portion, the inner elements of the second portion longitudinally opposed to the inner elements of the first portion, wherein the hollow inner elements of each of the first and second portions and the hollow outer elements of each of the first and second portions comprise hollow diamond shaped elements; and

a slider, the slider joining the inner elements of the first portion with the inner elements of the second portion to form an interlocked strip to ~~connect~~ join the first section of material to the second section of material.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled.)

21. (Currently Amended) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 1820, wherein the hollow inner diamond shaped elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer diamond shaped elements of the first and second portions comprise different sized hollow diamond shaped elements.

22. (Currently Amended) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 1819, wherein the hollow inner elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer elements of the first and second portions comprise hollow ovoid shaped elements.

23. (Currently Amended) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 22, wherein the hollow inner ovoid shaped elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer ovoid shaped elements of the first and second portions comprise different sized hollow ovoid shaped elements.

24. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first section of material and the second section of material comprise a stretchable fabric type material.

25. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 18, wherein the apparel is selected from the group consisting of shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, and bags.

26. (Original) The flexible and extensible closure apparatus of claim 18, wherein the interlocked strip is separable into the inner and outer elements of the second portion and the inner and outer elements of the first portion in order to partition the first section of material from the second section of material.

27. (Currently Amended) An item of apparel comprising:

a first section of material;

a second section of material; and

a closure apparatus for joining ~~connecting~~ the first section of material to the second section of material, the closure apparatus comprising:

a first portion having inner elements and outer elements, the outer elements connected together to form a first continuous strip, the outer elements attached to the first section of material, each of the inner elements connected to at least one of the outer elements; and

a second portion having inner elements and outer elements, the outer elements of the second portion connected together to form a second continuous strip, wherein the inner elements of each of the first and second portions and the outer elements of each of the first and second portions comprise hollow diamond shaped elements, the outer elements attached to the second section of material, each of the inner elements of the second portion connected to at least one of the outer elements of the second portion, the inner and outer elements of the second portion opposed to the inner and outer elements of the first portion, the inner and outer elements of the first portion interconnected with the inner and outer elements of the second portion to form an interlocked strip.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) The item of apparel of claim ~~27~~²⁹, wherein the hollow inner diamond shaped elements of the first and second portions and the hollow outer diamond shaped elements of the first and second portions include walls of varying thickness to assist in compression and elongation of the hollow inner diamond shaped elements and the hollow outer diamond shaped elements, the walls being interconnected to form corners of both the inner and outer diamond shaped elements of each of the first and second portions.

31. (Original) The item of apparel of claim 27, wherein the first section of material and the second section of material comprise a stretchable fabric type material.

32. (Original) The item of apparel of claim 27, wherein the item of apparel is selected from the group consisting of shirts, pants, skirts, shoes, and bags.

33. (Original) The item of apparel of claim 27, wherein the interlocked strip is separable into the inner and outer elements of the first portion and the second portion in order to partition the first section of material from the second section of material.

34. (Original) The item of apparel of claim 27, wherein the interlocked strip is partially separable into the inner and outer elements of the first portion and the second portion in order to partition the first section of material from the second section of material.